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Statement
to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
Geneva, March 1996

Odilia Victor

I am Odilia Victor . I am East Timorese, and twenty-five years old. I sought asylum at the Embassy of Australia in Jakarta last November together with my friend Maria Transfiguração. We are the first Timorese women who made an asylum bid at an embassy in Jakarta.

I tell about one of my sisters. At the time of the invasion, this my sister was married and was about to bear a child. The Indonesian military took her to a house where she was confined as a sex slave for about one year. There were seven more East Timorese women in that house. The house is on Kakau Lidun Street in Dili, in front of which now lies the headquarters of the Brigadier Mobile. At the time I was only five years old, but I can clearly remember I felt very sad to see this.

Many Timorese women are made sex slaves. I saw myself in the village of Aileu there were several women who were targetted as sex slaves. They were almost every night visited by different Indonesian soldiers in turn. These women cannot escape because Indonesian soldiers tell each other when they are replaced that certain women are to serve them. Such a blatant sex slavery can hardly be seen in Dili, but it is widespread throughout East Timor.

My friend Maria was at the Santa Cruz cemetery on November 12, 1991. She saw Indonesian soldiers raping dead and wounded women in turn in the cemetery. They rape Timorese women whenever they want.

The Indonesian military stepped up its Ninja operation in January last year. The Indonesian military told my cousin who was arrested that they would arrest me and rape me. This is why I entered the Australian embassy in Jakarta.

Thank you very much.